

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Morning Worship for The Sundays in Lent
March 21, 2021

Topic: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Time: Sunday, March 21, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324470555?pwd=Z3dCRVpwSlpjaTRZWlQvRHpmalUhXdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555

Password: 0000

Use your telephone to call this number and enter the ID and Password.

You will be able to speak and to hear the service.

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Introduction to the Day: God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

PRELUDE: *O God, Thou Faithful God*

Johannes Brahms; *John Anderson, organ*

THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER from the *Book of Common Prayer*

Reverend Johnson

Blessed be God, the Father, the Son , and the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(First John 1:8,9)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ ✝,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, **have mercy upon us. Amen.**

HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Marschhausen

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The First Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader from St. Mary's

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Verse for the Day – (John 12:24)

Reverend Johnson

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

The Epistle Reading – Hebrews 5:5-10

Reader from Concordia

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Hymn

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

- 1 "Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day, and humbly follow after me."
- 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight pervade your soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up, sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.
- 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your foolish heart rebel;
for you the Lord endured the cross to save your soul from death and hell.
- 4 Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for those who humbly bear the cross one day will wear the glorious crown.

The Holy Gospel – John 12:20-33

Deacon Fedorchak proclaims the Gospel...

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there

heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Reverend Jofinson

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor Marschhausen

Together with all the baptized in Christ, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

A Reader from Concordia

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive, and through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth — from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder — with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires, and bless the fruit of the land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower our congregations in discipleship. Equip learners and teachers in all the educational ministries of your church. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION...

Reverend Johnson

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am baptized into your death and resurrection.

I seek you daily. I worship and adore you.

Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul,
as you always have,
through Confession and Forgiveness,
through the proclamation of your holy Word,
and through the prayers of your people;

that I may remain united to you

by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace.

Be for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.

And return us all, Lord Jesus, to your Holy Table when this is over.

I pray all this, trusting that you are our life,
our peace, and our everlasting joy. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS *Intercessions and Thanksgivings follow...*

Pastor Marschhausen

Now I invite your prayers for all the needs of the world God so loved, silently or aloud.

*After each petition we pray, Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.***

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Reverend Johnson

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; *N. and N.*. God mercifully grant you the riches of grace, that you may please God both in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Marschhausen

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Reverend Johnson

You are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
 Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere;
 let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
 and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;
 nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

Deacon Winzler dismisses the assembly...

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES:

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DAILY READINGS FOR MARCH 22-27

Monday, March 22

Psalm 119:9-16

Isaiah 43:8-13

2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tuesday, March 23

Psalm 119:9-16

Isaiah 44:1-8

Acts 2:14-24

Wednesday, March 24

Psalm 119:9-16

Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23

John 12:34-50

Thursday, March 25

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Deuteronomy 16:1-8

Philippians 2:1-11

Friday, March 26

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Jeremiah 33:1-9

Philippians 2:12-18

Saturday, March 27

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Jeremiah 33:10-16

Mark 10:32-34, 46-52